

Pollution Prevention Efforts Recognized at Environment Conference

Two innovative Kansas enterprises were awarded the 2004 Pollution Prevention Awards September 1 during the annual Kansas Environment Conference at the Doubletree Hotel in Overland Park.

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) sponsors the annual awards for businesses, industries, municipalities, and individuals who make significant contributions to the prevention of pollution. Award applications are screened by agency staff then submitted to an independent awards selection committee who recommend final awards to KDHE.

The following projects were selected to receive awards this year:

Fort Riley will receive an award in the New Initiatives category for implementing a Lithium Sulfur Dioxide (LiSO₂) battery management program. LiSO₂ batteries are commonly used to power military communications systems and other portable electronics. Due to the environmental risks associated with LiSO₂ batteries, the State of Kansas requires the batteries be disposed of as universal waste when they have an electrical charge; however, discharged LiSO₂ batteries are less reactive and can be disposed of as non-hazardous solid waste. Fort Riley's innovative program of reusing the batteries and safely discharging batteries that cannot be reused has saved Fort Riley more than \$114,600 since its inception in October 1999.

UBF Foodsolutions will receive an award in the New Initiatives category for implementing an Environmental Management System (EMS). UBF Foodsolutions is a premier blending company that conducts business with some of the world's largest fast food and casual dining restaurant chains. UBF has facilities located across the U.S. with the capability of producing wet products such as sauces and dressings as well as being able to produce dry blends. Some of UBF's accomplishments since implementing the EMS include recycling of polypropylene super sacks, installation of energy efficient lighting, elimination of chlorinated solvents, decreased hazardous waste emission through inventory control, implementation of a mercury elimination program, integrated pest management, and general recycling. The facility benefits from almost \$80,000 in annual savings from these new practices!



P2 Award Winners – KDHE Secretary Roderick Bremby presents the 2004 Pollution Prevention Awards to representatives of Fort Riley (left) and USB Foodsolutions at the Kansas Environment Conference, sponsored by KDHE.